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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

An ECU is equipped with an engine control microcomputer for executing engine control and a throttle control microcomputer for executing throttle control. The engine control microcomputer is programmed to execute a monitor program. A time ~~equipped in~~ in the engine control microcomputer is set with a predetermined time each time ~~when the~~ the monitor program is executed normally. The timer switches automatically its output logic level ~~of at~~ at a port from high to low, when the time count reaches zero. When the output logic level is switched to low, a throttle motor is disabled ~~to drive a throttle.~~